



# **News Release**

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony Brown  
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard  
Secretary

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Vernarelli (410) 339-5065

## **Fugitive Recaptured 43 Years After Escaping From Maryland Correctional Facility**

TOWSON, MD (February 22, 2008)---A man who walked away from an Eastern Shore correctional facility has been recaptured in North Carolina---43 years after his escape.

Teamwork by the Maryland Division of Correction, Maryland State Police, and the U.S. Marshal's Service led to the arrest Wednesday of 81-year old Willie Carroll Parker in the rural community of Clinton, N.C.

Parker's arrest caps an outstanding effort by the Division of Correction (DOC) Commitment Office, whose personnel are responsible for tracking the movement, determining the release dates, credits, sentencing modifications, etc. for all State prison inmates. Because Mr. Parker's incarceration and escape far pre-date computerized records, the Commitment personnel had to painstakingly research records by hand. Once that was accomplished, they worked with Maryland State Police, who handle fugitive cases involving inmates. State Police in turn worked with federal authorities in North Carolina to locate and arrest Mr. Parker.

Parker escaped from the Eastern Correctional Camp, at the time, a brand-new facility near Church Hill, which today is known as the Eastern Pre-Release Unit. Much has changed since Parker went on the lam: Maryland has had eight governors since then, and has built 16 correctional facilities to accommodate an inmate population that has more than quadrupled. At the time of Parker's escape in 1965, the state had 5,542 inmates. Today, it has more than 23,000.

The meticulous, exhaustive research by the Commitment staff revealed that Parker was incarcerated in 1953 at the old State Pen on robbery and weapons charges. He apparently was paroled, had the parole revoked, and then returned to the Eastern Shore facility, from which he walked away in 1965.

Law enforcement authorities have said that since his escape, Parker has been arrested several times under different aliases, and has lived all over the country.

###